



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

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Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, July 1, 2008

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0093

Council Goalsetting

Recommended for a Resolution

Mayor Watson started by reviewing comments that he received from Councilor Streeter on goals.

Councilor O'Beirne updated the Council on issues under consideration by the Charter Revision Committee.

Mayor Watson suggested reviewing the 25th Council's goals line by line. Councilor O'Beirne asked if the Council will actually follow up on specific goals. Councilor Kolnaski agreed with only having goals that the Council feels it can accomplish. Councilor O'Beirne suggested that if the goals include specific tasks, that individual Councilors be assigned responsibility.

Working off of the 25th Town Council's goals, the consensus of the group was to keep the mission/vision statement as it appears (items 1 through 6).

The goals were discussed bullet by bullet with the following modifications made:

STRIKE - Cultivate a shared understanding of the mission/vision statement within the community.

Work to influence legislative policy at the regional, state and federal levels. Work to make state legislature more responsive to towns and be proactive in identifying legislative policy issues important to the Groton community. Support total tax restructuring at the state level.

STRIKE - Investigate the creation of a Reservoir and Watershed Protection Plan and Commission.

STRIKE - Semi-annually review and implement desired recommendations of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

STRIKE - Identify number, proportion, and location of residents placed at risk by revaluation and its tax impacts.

Early in the budget cycle (prior to November 1st) work with the Town Manager and Board of Education with a goal to reduce spending.

STRIKE - Work for property tax reform at the state level, such as supporting SB 535.

STRIKE - Monitor and support improvements to the Groton Senior Center.

STRIKE - Continue to monitor and evaluate existing emergency management plans, including installation and maintenance of back up generation at Fitch High School, Town Hall, and the sewage treatment plant.

Review, monitor, and implement as desired the recommendations in the Economic Development Strategic Plan and Plan of Conservation and Development.

STRIKE - Discourage the creation of an agency with the power of eminent domain.

Encourage land use agencies to address the issues of clean air, clean water, global warming, and residential sprawl, and consider adoption of alternative "smart growth" concepts.

Periodically meet with land use agencies (Planning, Zoning, and Inland Wetlands Agency) to receive updates on the revision of land use regulations.

Develop and implement a Town-wide property maintenance code.

Support and participate in the various state and local committees working to protect the future of the U. S. Submarine Base and improve communications between the Town of Groton and the Submarine Base so as to develop a far-reaching and stronger relationship between the Town of Groton and the Submarine Base.

Monitor the development of Phase II of the school improvement project.

STRIKE - Support investigation of aspects of regionalism.

STRIKE - The Town Council will inform itself about the estimated impact of reduction in workforces for the Town's major employers.

STRIKE - Establish a committee to conduct a feasibility study for the purpose of establishing a community/cultural center for Groton's citizens.

Consider the recommendations of the school reuse committees.

Councilor Bond arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Sheets

Discussed

Councilor O'Beirne distributed a Charter Revision timetable.

Mayor Watson reviewed a suggestion from Councilor Sheets received by e-mail.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:31 p.m.